

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01 /133 W

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P R 281445Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6788

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FI, EEC

SUBJECT: CONSERVATIVE PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

CHAIRMAN OUSTED

REF: HELSINKI 2501

BEGIN SUMMARY. AFTER LOSING A VOTE
OF CONFIDENCE IN HIS PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, RAIMO
ILASKIVI, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP, RESIGNED FROM
THE GROUP AND TURNED "INDEPENDENT", TOGETHER WITH
TWO OTHER CONSERVATIVE MPS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY'S
PARLIAMENTARY GROUP WAS "REMOVED" FROM HIS POSITION
BY THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON SEPTEMBER 27. THE
VOTE AGAINST DR. RAIMO ILASKIVI WAS A SURPRISINGLY
NARROW 18 TO 14 (WITH 1 MEMBER ABSENT AND ILASKIVI NOT
VOTING). A NEW CHAIRMAN HAS NOT BEEN CHOSEN, BUT
THE LEADING CONTENDER IS SAID TO BE MP ANTERO
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SALMENKIVI.

2. ILASKIVI HAS LONG BEEN A SELF-APPOINTED CHAMPION AND SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADITIONALIST WING OF THE KOKOOMUS (CONSERVATIVE "COALITION" PARTY). HE HAS ESCHEWED THE EFFORTS OF THE PRESENT LEADER OF THE PARTY, HARRI HOLKERI, AND HIS FOLLOWERS FOR A REORIENTATION OF THE CONSERVATIVES TO MAKE THEM "FIT FOR PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT", I.E. MAKE THEM ACCEPTABLE TO THE OTHER PARTIES AND THE SOVIETS.

3. THE STRAW THAT BROKE THE CAMEL'S BACK WAS THE INTRA-PARTY "REVOLT" STAGED BY ILASKIVI AND HIS SUPPORTERS LAST WEEK AGAINST THE "PROTECTION LAWS". THIS PUT THE CONSERVATIVES IN THE POSITION OF JOINING THE COMMUNISTS IN OPPOSING THE LAWS--THE PASSAGE OF WHICH IS CONSIDERED A PREREQUISITE FOR SIGNING THE EEC AGREEMENT. IT ALSO MADE IT APPEAR THAT THE CONSERVATIVES COULD NOT BE TRUSTED TO STICK TO AN AGREEMENT.

4. ILASKIVI'S POSITION WAS UNDERCUT FURTHER WHEN EVEN BUSINESS LEADERS REFUSED TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIM. THE CONSERVATIVES FINALLY CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT HE HAD BECOME TOO MUCH OF A LIABILITY TO THE PARTY. ILASKIVI WAS REQUESTED TO RESIGN, BUT REFUSED, DEMANDING A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. AFTER LOSING THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, ILASKIVI RESIGNED FROM THE CHAIRMANSHIP, ANNOUNCED THAT ALTHOUGH HE WOULD REMAIN IN PARLIAMENT AS A CONSERVATIVE MP, HE WOULD NOT CONTINUE AS A MEMBER OF THE PARTY'S PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, I.E., HE WOULD NOT BE BOUND BY PARTY DECISIONS AND DISCIPLINE. TWO OTHER CONSERVATIVE MPS, KULLERVO RAINIO AND SALME KATAJAVUORI, JOINED ILASKIVI IN LEAVING THE GROUP AND WILL ALSO ACT AS INDEPENDENTS.

5. THERE MAY WELL BE SEVERAL MORE OF THE PARTY'S MP WHO WILL TAKE THIS STEP, AND IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE THEY, AND POSSIBLY TWO OF THE SWEDISH PARTY'S MPS, WILL FORM A NEW CONSTITUTIONALIST PARTY. SUCH A NEW PARTY COULD GAIN AS MANY AS TEN MEMBERS IN PARLIAMENT AND WOULD THEN BE LARGER THAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE LIBERAL, SWEDISH, VENAMO, OR CHRISTIAN PARTIES.
KREHBIEL

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Message Attributes

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